

Parks Department Gearing Up for Spring and Summer

The Broken Arrow Parks & Recreation Department is looking for kids who want to work and adults who want to play.

Claudia Dyer, Recreation Division Manager for the City, is putting the word out that the City will be hiring Red Cross Certified Lifeguards, pool managers, water safety instructors and even a pool cashier in the next several weeks. There are 27 positions for lifeguards, 3 for pool managers and 10 for water safety instructors. Those interested in applying may contact Dyer at 355-0282, or go to the City's web site (www.brokenarrowok.gov).

Information on how to become a Certified Red Cross Lifeguard or a Water Safety Instructor may call the American Red Cross at 831-1126, or go on-line at www.tulsaredcross.org. Classes are underway now.

As for adults wanting to play, registration began Feb. 5 for the Indian Springs Adult Slow-Pitch Softball league. Those leagues will begin play March 12, and deadline to enter is March 4. League and tournament information can be obtained by calling the Al Graham League office at 636-9575.

There will be leagues for men's Class D and E on Sunday afternoons; Coed D & E on Sunday evenings; Men's Class E and Church leagues on Monday nights; Coed D & E, Tuesday nights; Men's C & D competitive, Wednesday nights; Men's church leagues Thursday nights; and Coed D & E on Friday nights.

Saturdays are reserved for NSA and USSSA tournaments.

Dyer also points out that there will be U.S. Junior Olympic Skills Competition at the Community Center March 11.

Council Chambers Get TV Screens for Audience

Those attending the City Council meetings in City Hall will be able to get a better view of maps, ordinances and other material from meetings, thanks to a pair of Dell 50-inch Plasma Television screens which have been installed at the back of the seating area.

The upgrades, which were made by the City's Information Services division, were ready for the Feb. 6 meeting.



Mayor Gathers Dust While Riding High

Mayor Richard Carter (left) gets a boost into the cab of the City's street sweeper from driver and operator Les Morris.

"This thing's a lot bigger...and taller than I thought," ran through my mind as I looked up at the cab of the City's street sweeper.

Veteran operator Les Morris climbed down gracefully from his perch on the right-hand side of the cab and gave me quick visual lesson of the operating parts of the machine. Opening up the back of the body, he pointed to a huge container with large tubes emptying into it.

"The brushes underneath sweep the debris to the intake nozzle, which acts like a giant vacuum and sucks it in and blows it into this tank. The leaves and trash collect at the bottom and the air is expelled," he said. "Ready for a ride?"

I struggled up to the left hand seat, fastened my seat belt, and was surprised at the number of levers, buttons, gauges, and controls, not to mention dual steering wheels and foot pedals. This vehicle was far more complicated than I had imagined! "Why two steering wheels?" I asked.

"This drives from either side, depending on which curb needs cleaning," Les said, probably wondering how the mayor could be so naive.

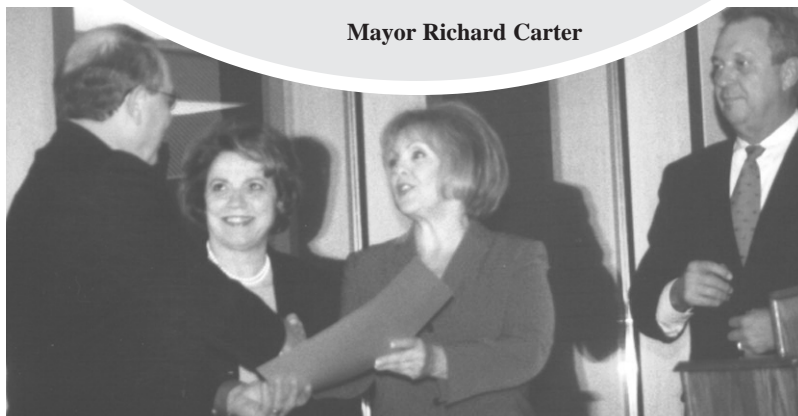
Entering the nearby neighborhood, Les expertly guided the cumbersome truck up and down the street, collecting bushels of dead leaves, paper cups, and about anything else lying by the curb. "I do this area about every three months," he said. "In fact, the other driver and I are out every weekday when the weather permits, year 'round. But a lot of citizens don't even know that Broken Arrow has street sweepers. I guess they think the streets clean themselves."

Back in the Community Center parking lot, Les asked me to try driving. Cautiously, I started around the raised sidewalk surrounding the Center, glad that Les was at the other steering wheel ready to save us if I messed up. It was a lot harder than it looks.

Why? First, there are three mirrors on each side. Using them, the driver has to simultaneously: (1) look ahead for debris, obstacles, and pedestrians, keeping lined up with the curb (2) keep an eye down on the revolving brush so it stays snugly against the curb but doesn't scuff too hard and get damaged (3) look back for other vehicles that might run into the back of the sweeper, and (4) watch out for the undercarriage and back wheels going around corners. While doing this, regulate the speed, the downward pressure of the brushes, and a few other things. Whew!

Happily, Les, the sweeper, and I all survived my outing without incident. Day after day, our little-known street cleaning team improves the appearance of our city, and also helps keep the storm drains free of leaves and debris that would clog them up and create flooding problems. Thanks, guys, for a job well done!

Mayor Richard Carter



BA Mayor Richard Carter (far left) receives a Proclamation from Northeastern State University, praising the City and the community for all that was done to bring the school to Broken Arrow. Presenting the award to the Mayor are Belva Howard and Jan Gordon, both members of the Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges, and (far right) NSU President Dr. Larry Williams. This was part of a ceremony at the BA campus signing over the deed to the property.



Signs of the times in Broken Arrow include large construction projects such as the Skycam building in Greenway Business Park and the Holiday Inn Express in Stone Wood Hills, just west of Bass Pro's Outdoor World. Commercial and industrial growth is keeping pace with the booming home building business in Broken Arrow.

Commercial, Industrial Growth Soars in BA

It's no secret that Broken Arrow leads the entire Tulsa area in the number of new homes built -- month after month after month. During the 2005 calendar year, statistics from the Home Builders Association of Greater Tulsa show that Broken Arrow had 919 new home starts for the year and 99 for the month of December -- both tops in the area.

But a subject which has been flying low on the radar screens since the opening of Broken Arrow's Bass Pro Outdoor World has been construction of commercial and industrial facilities.



City Employees Take Surplus Meals to Charities

When the City of Broken Arrow annual Holiday Dinner for employees ended with nearly 400 pounds of food still uneaten, a decision was made to make the holidays a little happier for some area families. Employees Tom Tolbert and Tom Kimbrough took the prepared meat and vegetable dishes, along with the leftover desserts, to Catholic Charities at St. Elizabeth Lodge.

"There weren't many options late on a Friday night," said Tolbert. "But we found someone at St. Elizabeth Lodge who could take the food and get it distributed to families in need. We got thank you notes from 11 families who were helped."

Later in December they took leftover food from one of the department holiday lunches to the Catholic Charities. "Broken Arrow Neighbors can't take cooked food like that, so we took it to Catholic Charities."

Several of the thank you notes were sent to the City. One of them said, "Thank you for all that you have donated to our family during this time of need. We really do appreciate you for allowing God to use you to bless others."

New Buses Due in City

Tulsa Transit officials report that the ridership of its buses in Broken Arrow hit an all-time high in late January, and continues to increase. New buses have been ordered and should be in service in late February or early March.

The record of 42 in one day was set the third week in January. The new buses for the Broken Arrow route will be larger and more comfortable, reports Cynthia Staab of Tulsa Transit, with three wheelchair positions and seating for up to 14 passengers. They'll also have a new and colorful design.

City Sales Tax Revenues Top Record

The City of Broken Arrow's sales tax check from the State of Oklahoma in January was \$2,371,459 -- the highest ever for the City. It was the seventh straight month in this fiscal year that the total has been over \$2 million.

Much of that growth is easy to see. All you have to do is look to the sky as you drive down the Broken Arrow Expressway. Just west of Bass Pro in the Stone Wood Hills development area is a new Holiday Inn Express, which has gone up quickly. Drive just a little further west and look to the other side (south) of the highway and you'll find the frame for the new Skycam, LLC building. A division of Emmy award winning Winnercomm, Inc., Skycam has changed the way sports events are broadcasted in America.

Adjacent to the Holiday Express is construction on a Steak 'N Shake restaurant and a Runt's Barbecue. Bass Pro is working on its new seafood restaurant which will open soon along the west bank of the lake on the site. And two other restaurants are scheduled to be built on the east side of the lake and north and east of the water.

Just south of Lowe's is an IHOP restaurant going up quickly.

A shopping center is being constructed just east of Garnett on the south side of Kenosha, joining other businesses which have opened there in the past few years.

Greenway Business Park, where Skycam is located, is also the scene of more development -- some new and some expansions.

The area between Aspen and Olive along Kenosha is also filling up rapidly. A new restaurant is nearing completion next door to Johnnie's Charbroiler. Additional buildings for new businesses are going up along Aspen and further east of County Line Road on Kenosha, at Tiger Plaza.

Yes, the home building business continues to boom in Broken Arrow. And the new families are finding more and more options to do their shopping, dining and even working right here at home.

Helpful City Phone Numbers

City Hall (Main No.)	251-5311
Police Department	451-8200
Emergencies	911
Animal Control	259-8311
Action Center	258-3587
Fire Dept.	259-8360
Parks & Rec.	259-8380
Maintenance Center	259-8373
Municipal Court /Traffic Fines	451-8558
Utility Payment/Water Dept.	259-8409
One Stop Center	259-2411
Park Grove Cemetery	259-8691
Community Center	259-8437
Central Pool	259-8695
Battle Creek Golf Course	355-4850
City Manager's Office	259-8419
City Legal Department	259-8422

After Hours Emergencies for Water, Sewer
451-8400

Community Calendar

- Feb. 10, 11, and 16-19** -- BA Community Playhouse presents "The Foreigner," directed by Debra Bradshaw. Performances at 8 p.m. each of the first five dates, then a 2 p.m. Sunday matinee on the 19th, all at the BACP Theatre in The Main Place, 1800 S. Main. For ticket information or reservations call 258-0077, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, M-F, or go to their website at www.bacptheatre.com.
- Feb. 12** -- Auditions for the BA Community Playhouse production of "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof." Start at 5 p.m. at BACP Theatre in The Main Place. For more information call the BACP office at 258-0077, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, M-F.
- Feb. 16** -- Relay for Life kickoff meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, Main and College. Open to the public. Team captains and survivors asked to attend this event in preparation for the June 2-3 American Cancer Society fundraiser at South Intermediate Track. Chili supper, guest speakers, more.
- Feb. 17, 21, 28, and March 3, 17, 21 and 28** -- Meetings of the Broken Arrow Mah Jongg group. 2127 N. Beech Ave. 10 a.m. on the first two meetings of the month and 7 p.m. on the last two. Call 286-8739 for information.
- March 6** -- The big band sound of "The One and Only Tommy Dorsey Orchestra." Final event of the 2005-06 Encore Series presented by the BA Arts & Humanities Council. 7:30 p.m. at the North Intermediate HS auditorium, 808 E. College. Tickets \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12-under. Call 259-4300, ext. 244 or 258 for information.
- March 11** -- U.S. Junior Olympics Skills Competition, 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Community Center and Central Park. Presented by Kellogg's Frosted Flakes. Free grassroots youth participation program in basketball, soccer, tennis and track and field for kids 8 to 13. Birth certificates required.
- March 30** -- Broken Arrow Neighbors Annual Meeting and Volunteer Recognition Dinner. 6 p.m. at Forest Ridge Golf Club's Veranda Room